bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines, street lights, *etc. etc.*

Minimum wages under Urban Employment Generation Programme

118. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of wages to be paid under the Urban Employment Generation Programme were as per prescribed minimum wages for the unskilled labour as notified by the concerned State Governments and were to be same for men and women workers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the payment of wages to male and female were made at differential rates in the States of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such a discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been reported by the State of Maharashtra that in a very few Municipal Councils, the payment of wages to male and female were being made at differential rates, mainly in cases where light work was assigned to the female workers. However, concerned Municipal Authorities have already been instructed by the State Government to pay equal wages to male and female workers. In so far as Government of Tamil Nadu is concerned there is no disparity reported as such.

Ratio of operational expenses and wages under UEGP

119. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether administrative/other operational expenses and wages of unskilled workers were fixed at 5 and 40 percent respectively in the schemes under Urban Employment Generation Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the administrative expenses were in excess of norms and percentage of expenditure on wages was very low leading to shortfall in employment generation; and